

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An optical storage medium comprising:  
a lead-in area;  
a data zone in which user data is recorded; and  
a lead-out area,  
wherein a write protection information is recorded to indicate one of a plurality of write protection statuses of the optical storage medium, each one of the plurality of write protection statuses indicating a size of a corresponding write protected area of the optical storage medium.
2. The optical storage medium of claim 1, wherein the size includes a portion of the data zone.
3. The optical storage medium of claim 2, wherein the data zone includes a user data area and at least one of an inner spare area and an outer spare area.
4. The optical storage medium of claim 3, wherein the at least one of the inner and outer spare areas is recordable.
5. The optical storage medium of claim 3, wherein the write protection information is configurable to indicate a status in which only the user data area is write-protected.
6. The optical storage medium of claim 1, wherein at least one of the lead-in area and the lead-out area comprises a drive test zone and a disc identification zone, and the data zone includes an inner spare area and/or an outer spare area which are recordable.
7. The optical storage medium of claim 1, wherein at least one of the lead-in area and the lead-out area comprises:  
a drive test zone; and  
a disc identification zone in which the write protection information is recorded,  
wherein the drive test zone and the disc identification zone are recordable.

9. An optical storage medium comprising:
  - a lead-in area;
  - a data zone in which user data is recorded; and
  - a lead-out area,wherein a write protection information is recorded to indicate a size of a write protected area differentiated from a plurality of sizes of write protected areas.
10. The optical storage medium of claim 9, wherein the size includes a portion of the data zone.
11. The optical storage medium of claim 9, wherein the data zone includes a user data area and at least one of an inner spare area and an outer spare area.
12. The optical storage medium of claim 10, wherein if the data zone has a defect area, at least one of the inner and outer spare areas is useable to replace the defect area.
13. An optical storage medium comprising:
  - a lead-in area;
  - a data zone in which user data is recorded; and
  - a lead-out area,wherein a write protection information is recorded to indicate one of a plurality of write protection statuses of the optical storage medium, one of the statuses being to allow defect management of a write protected optical storage medium.
14. The optical storage medium of claim 13, wherein the data zone includes a user data area and at least one of an inner spare area and an outer spare area.
15. The optical storage medium of claim 13, wherein the at least one of the lead-in area and the lead-out area comprises a drive test zone and a disc identification zone, and the data zone includes an inner spare area and/or an outer spare area which are recordable.
16. The optical storage medium of claim 14, wherein if the user data area has a defect area, at least one of the inner and outer spare areas is useable to replace the defect area.